

**Texas State Board of Examiners of Dietitians
Regular Meeting
Friday, October 7, 2005 at 1:00 p.m.
The Exchange Building (512) 834-6601
8407 Wall Street, S-402
Austin, Texas 78754
Minutes**

Board Members Present:

Ralph McGahagin, Chair, Professional Member
Linda W. Dickerson, Public Member
Lucinda Flores, Professional Member
Janet Hall, Professional Member
Amy McLeod, Professional Member
Georgiana Gross, Professional Member
Gene Wisakowsky, Professional Member

Board Members Absent:

Carol B. Davis

Staff Members Present:

Bobbe Alexander
Carolyn Wright
Debbie Peterson
Melissa Utpadel
Eileen Hartman

Guests Present:

Linda Farr, TDA

Agenda Item 1 was the call to order by Mr. McGahagin at 1:07 p.m.

Agenda Item 2 was the Introduction of members, guests, and staff

Agenda Item 3 was discussion and possible action concerning absent board members. Motion was made by Mr. Wisakowsky to approve Ms. Davis absence. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 4 was the approval of minutes from the May 6, 2005 meeting. Motion was made by Ms. Hall to accept as amended. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 5 was public comment, Ms. Farr stated that the Texas Dietetic Association supports the board and will be happy to pass any information and education to the licensees' in the State of Texas. Ms. Farr feels the Sunset report was not favorable. She believes the Sunset commission had concerns that the board does not receive many complaints.

Agenda Item 6 was the Board Chair's Report. Mr. McGahagin would like to have explained to him how and when they would be notified that their term is up. Mr. McGahagin was also glad he was on the board during the board going through Sunset Advisory committee.

Agenda Item 7 was the Unit Manager's Report. Ms. Peterson passed out three handouts to the board, one relates to the budget, and the others regarding exams. Ms. Peterson talked about the budget for the Board of Dietitians. Ms. Peterson talked about how other boards raised their fees, to make up the 5% that was cut, due to Legislation. The Sunset report was excellent, and there were only a few changes made. Ms. Peterson addressed Ms. Farr's concerns about the Sunset report saying that the Dietitians do not have a practice act, and until the board does you will not have a whole lot of complaints. Ms. Peterson discussed the Jurisprudence Exam, Eileen Hartman will draft question from the rules and law. The staff will gather these questions and send them to the Board members for review. There were some summary points and the \$40.00 fee per candidate for taking the exam was discussed. This is an open book test and it will not let you go further until you answer the question correctly. Ms. Hartman discussed in detail how the process of signing up for the exam online would look like. (She had screen shots of each process). Ms. Hartman also had examples of what the test questions would look like. She also explained that they would be able to print a Certificate once they have completed the online exam. E-strategy is the contractor for the exam and will be able to go online with the exam by March 2006. Ms. Peterson talked about Hurricane Katrina and Rita and reported that there were two displaced dietitians, one from Louisiana and the other was from Mississippi, and that we have expedited their license in 48 hours instead of 4-6 weeks. Ms. Peterson talked about the new database, and how it will improve our business

Agenda Item 8 was the Executive Secretary's Report. Ms. Alexander talked about the new look to the certificate. There were some delays in getting them printed, but now things are going smoothly. There is a total of 3,924 licensees, and out of that 3905 are LD's and 19 are PLD's

Agenda Item 9 was the ratification of applications approved by the Executive Secretary. Motion was made by Mr. Wisakowsky to accept the ratification of the applications. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Agenda Item 10 was discussion and possible action concerning committee reports:

- A. **Rules Committee report-** regarding action taken at the October 7, 2005 committee meeting. Ms. Flores requested that the new rule regarding Protocol be moved from the end of the rules up to §711.3(c) Provider of nutrition services. Motion was made by Ms. Dickerson to accept the rule changes that will be posted in the Texas Registrar for 30 days. Motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- B. **Complaints Committee report-** was discussion regarding action taken at the October 7, 2005 committee meeting. Motion was made by Ms. Gross to close DT- 05-003 with no violations. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.
- C. **Consumer Committee report-** was discussion regarding action taken at the October 7, 2005 committee meeting. Ms. McLeod spoke on Ms. Halls behalf and presented to full board the brochure for dietitians, there was some wording that was talked about and may be put in the brochure. Recommendations from the chair to have TDA's input on the brochure, and also get back together with the Consumer committee, and discuss the changes that were discussed.

Agenda Item 11 was discussion and possible action regarding the board's consumer brochure. No action was taken.

Agenda Item 12 was discussion and possible action regarding amendments to 22 Texas Administrative Code, Chapter 711, concerning the licensure and regulation of licensed dietitians. No action was taken.

Agenda Item 13 was setting of next meeting date. The next meeting will be held on Friday, February 10, 2006.

Agenda Item 14 was confirmation of board member and staff assignments due before next meeting. No action was taken.

Motion was made by Ms. Flores to adjourn at 3:01 p.m. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Approved by the board on February 24, 2006

Ralph McGahagin, R.D., L.D.
Chair

Bobbe Alexander,
Executive Secretary